

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[00077] In a radio access network (14) comprising a serving radio network control node (26<sub>1</sub>) and a drift radio network control node (26<sub>2</sub>), a determination is first made that a target cell controlled by the drift radio network control node should be prepared for handover with respect to a user equipment unit (30). The target cell is neighbored by a set of neighboring cells, the set of neighboring cells including a first subset of neighboring cells and a second subset of neighboring cells, a handover involving the user equipment unit being permitted for a cell of the first subset but not for a cell of the second subset. In accordance with the determination, a message including a filtered list of cells is sent to the user equipment unit, the filtered list of cells including the first subset but not the second subset. The filtered list of cells can comprise, for example, a list of cells for whose frequencies the user equipment unit is to perform measurements. Which nodes perform the actions of (1) determining an allowed area(s) for the user equipment unit; and (2) preparing the filtered list of cells using the allowed area(s) depends on which of various alternative implementations are utilized.

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